

Applicant: Hans-Peter Manner
Application No.: 10/616,824

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-7 and 9-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 9 and 16-17 have been amended and claims 19-22 have been added. The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment herein.

In the Action, claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 16-17 have been amended, and Applicant submits that these claims are now in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Section §112 rejection.

In the Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as anticipated by European Patent No. EP0447573 (Guenther). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Guenther discloses a hot runner nozzle (10) having conducting tips (28) on a thermally conductive mount (30). Guenther also mentions "a shut-off needle (50)...in the main runner (22)" in the English language abstract, although such item is not shown in the drawings.

Guenther fails to suggest or disclose at least two outlet openings, each of the at least two outlet openings having a needle closure with a closure needle, as recited in claim 1. Guenther only ostensibly discloses a *single* shut-off needle (5)). Guenther further fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing

Applicant: Hans-Peter Manner
Application No.: 10/616,824

closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1 as amended. Actually, no drive element is disclosed by Guenther. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Guenther. The remaining claims 2-7 and 9-19 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable over Guenther.

Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection citing Guenther is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,162,044 (Babin). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Babin discloses a valve gated injection molding apparatus having valve pins (62) which extend through heated nozzles (12) driven by a common actuating mechanism (70).

Babin fails to suggest or disclose an injection molding nozzle including at least two outlet openings in an end region of the nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle, as recited in claim 1. Clearly, Babin merely discloses nozzles (12) directed toward a single side of a molding apparatus. Babin further fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a

Applicant: Hans-Peter Manner
Application No.: 10/616,824

closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1 as amended. In the Action, it is alleged that Babin's disclosure of a piston (72), enlarged head (78) and removable cap (80) is analogous to the drive element claimed by Applicant. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion noting that the pertinent portions of these elements are not a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk or an eccentric disk. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Babin. The remaining claims 2-7 and 9-19 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable over Babin.

Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection citing Babin is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babin in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,471,683 (Halbach). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Halbach discloses a nozzle mechanism for an injection molding machine including nozzles (20, 21) which extend from branches (18, 19) at right angles thereto. Halbach fails to remedy the deficiencies of Babin. Specifically, Halbach fails to suggest or disclose an injection molding nozzle including at least two outlet openings in an end region of the nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle,

Applicant: Hans-Peter Manner
Application No.: 10/616,824

as recited in independent claim 1. Halbach also fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1.

Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,662,837 (Anderson). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Anderson fails to remedy the deficiencies of Babin. Specifically, Anderson fails to suggest or disclose an injection molding nozzle including at least two outlet openings in an end region of the nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle, as recited in independent claim 1. Anderson also fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk, as recited in claim 1.

New claims 19-22 also define patentable subject matter. For example, none of the cited references suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing first and second closure needles slideably connected to each of the first and second closure needles, as recited in independent claims 19 and 22. The limitation

Applicant: Hans-Peter Manner
Application No.: 10/616,824

regarding the drive element slideably connected to each of the first and second closure needles is supported in paragraph [0050] (referring to Figures 2-5) which discloses a cone or conically tapering member which pushes apart ends of closure needles by sliding past the ends of the needles. The limitation is also supported in paragraph [0051] (referring to Figures 6-11) which disclose a cam disk or eccentric disk having a periphery which changes from a smaller to a larger dimension sliding across the ends of the needles to actuate them.


If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant: Hans-Peter Manner
Application No.: 10/616,824

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-7 and 9-22, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Hans-Peter Manner

By 
Dimitri P. Dovas
Registration No. 51,627

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

DPD